

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02586 131210Z

10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SAM-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

/050 W

----- 012300

O 131142Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 766

S E C R E T BANGKOK 2586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, TH, PFOR

SUBJECT: AP COMMENTARY ON U.S. FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND

1. AP WIRE FEB 13 CARRIED FRED C. HOFFMAN BYLINER FROM WASHINGTON DESCRIBING PURPORTED FUTURE US FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND. ARTICLE SAID: 1) ABOUT 85 FIGHTER-BOMBERS WILL BE WITHDRAWN DURING 1975, 2) THE US WILL OCCUPY ONLY TWO AIR BASES, AND 3) AMERICAN ARMED STRENGTH IN THAILAND WILL BE CUT TO 10,000 FROM THE PRESENT 25,000.
2. WE FORESEE ENOUGH PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT THAT WILL APPARENTLY BE FORMED BY A DEMOCRAT-LED COALITION, WITHOUT SHOOTING OURSELVES IN THE FOOT THROUGH UNAUTHORIZED SIGNALS FROM WASHINGTON ON FUTURE FORCE LEVELS.
3. THERE ARE MANY PRESSURES ON SENI PRAMOT, WHO IS LIKELY TO BE THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER, FOR US MILITARY WITHDRAWALS FROM THAILAND. WHILE WE DO NOT EXPECT SENI TO URGE IMMEDIATE OR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL, THE SHARP DRAWDOWNS MENTIONED IN THE STORY WILL WEAKEN WHATEVER STAND SENI MAY BE WILLING TO TAKE AGAINST THOSE WHO ADVOCATE OUR EARLY AND COMPLETE DEPARTURE. ALSO, THE IMPLICATION OF THE LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH THE THAI ON THESE FIGURES WILL NOT HELP US IN ARGUING FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF US GOVERNMENT DESIRES ABOUT OUR TROOP PRESENCE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 02586 131210Z

4. WE EXPECT PRESS ATTENTION TO THE AP STORY TO GENERATE
QUERIES SEEKING OUR COMMENT AND CONFIRMATION (THIS HAS
JUST HAPPENED). WE INTEND TO REPLY: QTE. WE CANNOT
ACCOUNT FOR THE FIGURES USED IN THAT NEWS REPORT.
DECISIONS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE REGARDING FUTURE US FORCE
LEVELS IN THAILAND AND CERTAINLY WILL NOT BE MADE BEFORE
CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENT WITH THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT.
UNQTE.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE WASHINGTON MAY
WISH TO OFFER.
KINTNER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO002586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750052-0690
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750248/aaaabqkv.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AP COMMENTARY ON U.S. FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PFOR, TH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006